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(NE)
DmT
12-3-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Case No. 99-372-A)

PATENT

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In re Application of: Welcher et al.)

Serial No.: 09/724,860)

Before the Examiner: J. Andrus)

Filed: November 28, 2000)

Group Art Unit: 1646)

For: Interferon-like Molecules
and Uses Thereof)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

OKAY TO ENTER
JAW 12-17-02

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED MAY 16, 2002

Responsive to the Office Action, mailed May 16, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

AMENDMENTS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the following amendments.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 9, 12-42, and 46-56 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Amended Twice) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence:

- (a) as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4;
- (b) of the DNA insert in ATCC Deposit No. PTA-976;
- (c) encoding the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5;
- (d) that hybridizes to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of any of (a) - (c) under

hybridization conditions allowing no more than a 21% mismatch between the nucleotide sequences;

or

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